deal that is original in the manner of considering the subject and in the method in which it has been studied.

The bookmaker's work has been well done, the paper being firm and white, and the type clear, large, and provided with wide margins. The volume is one valuable both to the ophthalmologist and to the general practitioner. C. S. B.

ART. XXVI.—*Hygienic and Medical Reports.* By Medical Officers of the U. S. Navy. Prepared for publication under the direction of Surgeon-General of the Navy. By JOSEPH B. PARKER, A.M., M.D., Surgeon U. S. Navy; Assistant to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. 8vo. pp. viii., 1079. Government Printing Office: Washington, 1879.

THE publication of essays on medicine and hygiene, from reports of medical officers of the navy to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, was commenced December, 1872. The first, entitled "Contributions to Medical Science from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery," contains ten papers. The second, "A Report on the Origin and Therapeutic Properties of Cundurango," a quarto volume, illustrated by twenty-two photographic plates, was published 1873. The third, "Sanitary and Medical Reports for 1873-74," was issued December, 1875; and the fourth, containing 70 reports and papers, was issued July, 1879.

In a prefatory statement Surgeon-General J. Winthrop Taylor (recently retired) says that the aim of these publications "is to improve the sanitary condition of our ships of war, and diffuse a knowledge of hygiene among the officers of the navy." As evidence of the necessity of greater attention to these matters he states that, "during the years 1876, '77, '78, it appears from the files of the bureau that 29,154 cases of disease were treated in a yearly average force of about 10,000; that 984 surveys were held (33—per 1000), and that 400 deaths were reported (13 + per 1000); a loss to the service of nearly 46 per 1000, as it can be supposed that only a small number of those surveyed returned to duty. By a more extended knowledge of hygiene it is hoped this large proportion can be reduced.

"During the same period there were 1273 applications from the navy for pensions; 638 claims were allowed." This implies an average annual loss in the naval service of 460 men, the pecuniary value of which is not estimated.

The volume consists of two parts. Part I., "Hygienic Reports," contains 46 reports from medical officers afloat, and tables of medical statistics of the navy for 1875, '76, '77, and '78, compiled by the editor, Surgeon Joseph B. Parker. The chief theme of all these reports is the same—the influence of deficient ventilation, and the unnecessary wetting of decks. The same story has been told in many ways to the authorities at Washington during much more than a half century, and seems never to have been heard by any of them, or rarely ever, if we may judge by the very few attempts made to remedy the evils complained of. The average air-space of sleeping berths for each man on board the several ships afloat, according to these reports, measures from 39 to 134 cubic feet, and the means of changing the air are entirely insufficient.

Medical Inspector Thomas J. Turner, in one of his admirable reports, page 99, says in this connection—

> "The prevention of disease is a section of medicine demanding much study and cautious research, for it reaches from the individual to grasp the masses, and assumes in such character the dignity of statesmanship. It is here that a medical officer comes in contact with those in command. Infrequently the suggestions of the medical officer upon the hygiene of the vessel are accepted; more frequently, however, any hint as to the preservation of the health of the crew is considered officious, as an attempt at interference, or as a reflection upon the so-called discipline; the officer classified with the meddlesome, intrusive or annoying, and very early reminded that 'in the opinion of the commanding officer, he should confine his attention to his legitimate duties.' It is not understood by many naval officers that hygiene is a legitimate and perhaps the most important part of a medical officer's duty."

As an instance of the sanitary environments of men afloat we refer to a report, page 283, of Medical Inspector Thomas J. Turner, of the U. S. Steamer Tennessee, on the Asiatic station. The ship was under steam 303 days 15 hours in 366 days. He gives two observations of extreme ranges of temperature in the fire-room. "January 31, 1877, the temperature of the fire-room was 185°, and on February 1, 1877, at 9 A. M. and 3 P. M., the thermometer marked in the fire-room 198° at the height of a man from the deck plates."

"The humidity remains about the same. In 1876 the gun-deck was wet 301 times, the berth-deck 223, not including partial wettings since July, 1876, of 83 times." He made a series of observations on the humidity of the berth-deck, which are tabulated. As Dr. Turner truly says, page 676, "The excessive humidity of the air on the lower decks has its origin almost entirely in the daily water-soaking routine which exists in the service, and to which the decks are subjected."

Besides discussions of ventilation and humidity these reports contain observations on foreign hospitals, medical topography of ports visited, and many matters of interest are incidentally mentioned.

Surgeon A. A. Hochling reports that Dr. King of the English hospital at Pernambuco, Brazil, has treated yellow fever very successfully, losing one in twelve cases, by first clearing the primæ viæ with a scruple of ipecac. and ol. ricini, if required, and then, "as a specific treatment, he gives a drink containing sodæ sulpho-carbolatis, gr. x.; aquæ ℥j; this imperial he gives during the first four or more days."

Surgeon Samuel F. Shaw tells us, page 141, that the Chinese treat syphilis with "calomel, cinnabar, and realgar, the first-named entering into every recipe. Prescriptions are given to drive out the calomel after it has effected a cure, and here is used a drug of the sarsaparilla class. Salivation is believed to be the poison of syphilis flowing out. Calomel has been in use for this disease for the last two thousand years. Not only are preparations of mercury used, but fumigations and mercurial vapor baths, local and general, are detailed in the books as having been in use from time immemorial. To remove syphilitic blotches, alum and rhubarb, in equal parts, mixed with water, are used externally. The syphilides are considered to be not so much a further development of the disease as of the mercury taken."

Surgeon George W. Wood reports, page 207, that "a small commerce has recently arisen between La Paz and the United States in a native plant, known as damiana (*Turnera aphorodisiaca*), which is found in large quantities on the western coast of Mexico, but especially in this peninsula. . . . It is here in universal use in the form of hot infusion, domestic tincture (the leaf macerated in the native mascal), and cordial. In its weaker forms it is esteemed as a general tonic, and preservative of the sexual power, while the stronger preparations are powerfully stimulant to the sexual organs of both male and female. It is undoubtedly an aphrodisiac of considerable power, somewhat tonic, slightly cathartic, and apparently having some hepatic action. Emmenagogue properties are also ascribed to it. A patent medicine is prepared from it, in the form of an agreeable cordial, and extensively sold in La Paz, under the name of Damiana Fort."

Assistant Surgeon Lloyd B. Baldwin, page 467, mentions that P. Manson, M.D., of Amoy, China, describes in the Customs Medical Reports for the half year ending March 31, 1877, the *Filaria immitis* and *Filaria sanguinolenta* as found in the dog, and discusses the connection of hematozoa with elephantiasis. Dr. Manson declares that he is able "to state positively that *Elephantiasis arabum* is a parasitic disease, and to establish on solid and incontrovertible grounds, which in a former report I [he] conjectured was the true pathology of this puzzling affection. The *Filaria sanguinis hominis*, which resembles very closely in general appearance and movements the canine hematozoa, measures slightly less than $\frac{1}{3000}$ of an inch in breadth by about $\frac{1}{90}$ of an inch in length. The canine variety appears to be naked and structureless; the human, on the contrary, is provided with a very delicate, non-contractile integument, within which the body of the animal is incessantly shortened and elongated. There is about the centre of the body an elongated yellow patch, which he believes appertains to the alimentary canal. Distinct movements of a mouth can be made out at the extremity of the head. They resemble the breathing movements of a fish's mouth." He states that a large ratio of the population of the province of Amoy is infected with the *Filaria sanguinis hominis*.

The Filaria immitis, F. sanguinolenta, and F. sanguinis hominis were originally described by Dr. Joseph Leidy in the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* for 1850–51. In a brochure on "The Pathological Significance of Nematode Hematozoa," Calcutta, 1874, by T. R. Lewis, M.B., Staff Surgeon H. M. British forces, etc. Dr. Leidy is fully credited for these discoveries.

Surgeon J. B. Parker, the editor of the volume, contributes "A Summary of Prevalent Forms of Disease on Home and Foreign Service" for the years 1875, '76, '77, '78, compiled from reports on file in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Part II. is devoted to the miscellaneous contributions from medical officers of the United States Navy, and contains 23 papers, which we regret space does not permit us to notice in detail.

The character of the work may be understood from the citations made in the above cursory notice. As a whole it is creditable to the medical service of the navy.

The arrangement of the materials would have been more satisfactory to most readers had all the reports of each naval station been placed together, instead of being mingled or presented as they are in groups for each year. The dates of the reports are not given. One complete index to the contents of the whole volume would be more convenient than the two indices given, one for each part, neither of which is as full as it should be.

W. S. W. R.